

IMPORT HEALTH REQUIREMENTS OF JAPAN FOR
HORSES (BREEDING OR FEEDER*) EXPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES

The animals must be accompanied by a U.S. Origin Health Certificate (VS 17-140) issued by a veterinarian so authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and endorsed by a Veterinary Services veterinarian. The certificate shall contain the name and address of the shipper, name and address of the consignee, and a complete identification of the animals to be exported. It shall also show that:

CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS

1. The United States is free of African horse sickness, horse pox, glanders, contagious equine metritis, epizootic lymphangitis, and equine trypanosomiasis (including dourine and surra).
2. There have been no cases of vesicular stomatitis, equine encephalomyelitis (of all types including Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis), equine infectious anemia, equine influenza, equine piroplasmiasis, equine rhinopneumonitis, equine viral arteritis, equine coital exanthema, salmonellosis (*S. abortus equi*) and strangles on the stabling premises for at least six (6) months, and in the case of Potomac horse fever for at least one year, prior to export.
3. The horse has been stabled on premises as listed in item 2 for at least sixty (60) days before the commencement of the isolation period.
4. The animals have been held under veterinary inspection in a USDA-approved isolation facility for at least 7 days prior to shipment. After entry into the isolation facility, the animals have not been in contact with other animals not destined for export to Japan. (Date of commencement, completion of the isolation period and the name of the approved facility shall be shown on the certificate.)
5. The animals show no signs of infectious diseases on clinical examination during the isolation period.
6. The animals have been vaccinated twice for equine influenza 4 to 6 weeks apart, OR the animals have been previously immunized and have been given a booster inoculation within 1 year of export. (Dates of vaccination and type of vaccine used shall be shown on the certificate.)
7. All equipment, containers, and vehicles used for transportation of the horses for export shall be cleaned and disinfected with a USDA-approved disinfectant.
8. The animals for export have been kept isolated from any other animals during the transportation period in the USA and during shipment to Japan.
9. Feed and litter used during the transportation period are provided from the same source used for the isolation facility.

TEST REQUIREMENTS

The animals were negative to the following tests within 30 days prior to export.

1. Equine infectious anemia - Agar-gel immunodiffusion test (Coggins).
2. Equine piroplasmiasis - Microscopic examination of a blood smear
AND
either - Complement fixation test less than 2+ at 1:5 dilution OR an indirect fluorescent antibody (IFA) test
3. Salmonellosis - Standard tube agglutination test for *S. abortus equi* negative at 1:320 dilution.

4. Equine viral arteritis - Serum neutralization test at a 1:4 dilution. For vaccinated stallions follow requirements in Appendix I.
5. Vesicular stomatitis - CF test OR serum neutralization test

OTHER INFORMATION

1. USDA-approved export isolation means that the animals are confined on a premises that has been inspected by a VS inspector and meets all the requirements as outlined in VS Memorandum 592.105 before any animals are placed in isolation.
2. If any infectious disease is detected during the quarantine period in Japan, the horse involved will be returned or slaughtered by the animal quarantine station in Japan.
- * Feeder horses are defined by Japan as "the horses to be slaughtered after 2 to 4 months of fattening from the time of importation."

EMBARKATION CERTIFICATION

At the port of embarkation, a VS port veterinarian shall attach to the U.S. Origin Health Certificate, the Certificate of Inspection of Export Animals (VS Form 17-37) showing:

1. The name and address of the consignor.
2. The name and address of the consignee.
3. The number and species of animals to be shipped.
4. A statement that the animals have been given a careful veterinary inspection at the port of embarkation and found free from evidence of communicable disease and exposure thereto within 24 hours of exportation.

APPENDIX I

1. Non-vaccinated horse: Serum neutralization test in the presence of complement (hereinafter referred to as "the serum neutralization test") negative at serum dilution 1:4.
2. Vaccinated stallion shall satisfy all of the following requirements:
 - 2.1. The government authorities of the exporting country shall have confirmed that a blood sample was taken from the vaccinated stallion immediately prior to the vaccination and that the serum was subjected to the serum neutralization test with negative result at serum dilution 1:4.
 - 2.2. Three blood samples shall be taken from the vaccinated stallion one time on the premises of origin and two times at pre-embarkation quarantine facilities, and these three sera shall be at the same time subjected to the serum neutralization test with a result of either no significant rise (including fourfold) of these titers or declining titers. In this case, the interval of taking blood samples shall be 2 weeks and the third blood sample shall be taken within 10 days prior to the shipment. If there is a significant rise (greater than fourfold increase) in titer, the stallion is not eligible for export to Japan.
 - 2.3. In the case where titers are maintained, either stable or declining, in the vaccinated stallion as the result of the serum neutralization test in 2.2, the said stallion shall be subjected to a covering test. Two test mares to be used for covering test shall satisfy the requirements for the horse to be exported to Japan, and shall be isolated at the same pre-embarkation quarantine facilities together with the vaccinated stallion during 30 days prior to the shipment of the vaccinated stallion to Japan, with negative results of the following tests:
 - 2.3.1 Blood samples are taken from the two test mares immediately prior to entering pre-embarkation quarantine facilities, and are subjected to the serum neutralization test with negative results at serum dilution 1:4.
 - 2.3.2 During the 30 day pre-embarkation quarantine period each of the two test mares have been covered by the vaccinated stallion twice a day for two days, and at the 14th day and the 28th day respectively after the last covering, blood samples are taken from each of the two test mares and are subjected to the serum neutralization test with negative results at serum dilution 1:4.
 - 2.3.3 The two test mares have been found to be free of signs or symptoms of equine viral arteritis during the 30 day pre-embarkation quarantine period.